

A new series of annual awards, created to encourage increased 'DX-exchanges' on the 50 MHz band, has been announced by Harry Schools KA3B, publisher of the "50 MHz DX Bulletin".

There are nine (9) new annual awards; each in the form of a permanent Award Plaque or Cup engraved with the winner's name, callsign and pertinent data connected with his/her achievement. Additionally, a larger set of permanent record plaques and cups have been created to record 25 consecutive years of winners. The permanent record plaques and cups will ultimately be donated to a suitable Amateur Radio museum for timeless display.

Known as the **TRIPLE-A 6 METER AWARDS**, the plaques and cups have been donated to the program by Bob Cooper, Jr. (ZL0AAA/ZL4AAA/VP5D/K6EDX et al) and Gay Cooper (ZL1GG/VP5GG et al) in a self-perpetuating trust.

The awards are designed to encourage 6 meter operators to be more active and make more frequent transmissions when DX conditions seem likely. Active on 6 meters since 1954 (50 MHz WAS #22 as K6EDX), Bob Cooper believes many 6 meter DX contact opportunities are missed because stations at both ends of a DX circuit are listening rather than transmitting.

The object for all nine (9) annual awards is to contact a specified group of geographic districts in the shortest possible period of time. Participants will be encouraged to look upon each new day/week/month/year as an opportunity to better their own previous-best elapsed-time contact record. The awards are as follows:

1) **TRIPLE-A 6 METER / 4 CONTINENT AWARD**

- A) Presented to the station working four continents on 6M in the shortest elapsed time, each calendar year.

EXAMPLE: ZL0AAA works FO5DR at 1957, PJ9EE at 2043, W6UXN at 2110 and JA1VOK at 2203.

The total elapsed time (1957-2203) is 2 HOURS, 6 MINUTES.

- B) Participants can work and rework same stations in same day, different days, etc. as frequently as needed to create 'best elapsed times'. Contacts need only include exchanged signal reports and confirmations.
- C) Six separate awards each year, to best-elapsed-time for each radio-continental region (ie: North America, South America, Asia, Oceania, Africa).

2) **TRIPLE-A 6 METER / 6 CONTINENT AWARD**

- A) Presented to the station working all six continental areas on 6M in the shortest elapsed time, each calendar year. Same details as with the 4 Continent Award.

3) **TRIPLE-A 6 METER / 25 COUNTRY AWARD**

- A) Presented to the station who works 25 DXCC countries on 6M in the shortest elapsed time, each calendar year. Same details as with the 4 Continent Award.

4) **TRIPLE-A 6 METER / 48 STATE AWARD**

- A) Presented to the station who works the 48 contiguous states of the U.S.A. in the shortest elapsed time, each calendar year. Same details as with the 4 Continent Award.

QSL confirmations are NOT required for annual award applicants. However, Award Manager Harry Schools (KA3B) reserves the right to require proof of QSO's by contacting stations claimed by applicant and to submit contested applications to a Panel of Advisors appointed by award creators ZL0AAA and ZL1GG. Contested applications unresolved as of 1 February each year will be automatically eliminated for annual award.

Applicants MUST submit details of contacts within 10 days of last award-qualifying contact to the 50 MHz DX Bulletin (c/o Harry Schools KA3B, 1606 South Newkirk Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19145, USA) for the combined report/application to be considered for the current years' awards. There is no limit to the number of individual entries (ie: sets of contacts) that can be reported/submitted within a calendar year. Individual contacts can appear in two or more submissions since the goal of each award is 'total elapsed time' between first and last contact(s) required for an individual award.

Applications need only include the following data:

- 1) Name, callsign and address of applicant
- 2) Time-sequential list of each contact included in application.  
(ie: March 11, 1991: FO5DR 1957 / PJ9EE 2043 / W6UXN 2110 / JA1VOK 2203)
- 3) Where UTC dates are different for contacts, please so note.
- 4) Date of application (ie: date application mailed to KA3B).

Winners will receive handsome custom engraved plaques (TRIPLE-A 4 Continent, 25 Countries and 48 States awards) or a custom engraved cup (TRIPLE-A 6 Continent Award), and, an individual certificate authorizing winners to include 'TRIPLE-A (award name) WINNER/(year)' on their QSL cards and station literature.

A month-to-month 'Awards Status' statistics box will appear monthly in the 50 MHz DX Bulletin listing 'best times' to-date for each award category in the current year. The 1991 award period began JANUARY 1, 1991 and contacts will be accepted on a retroactive basis this year only provided entrance information is received not later than 1 September for elapsed-periods ending on or before 1 August 1991. All future periods run 0000 UTC 1 January through 2359:59 UTC December 31.





ZL4AAA/ 'TRIPLE A AWARDS'

MEMO:

NI6E/KH6

KA3B

April 15, 1991

Lamenting to myself silently one day about the obvious 50 MHz propagation, and lack of QSO activity (open to W5/6 and 7 at time) I pondered how to increase the QSOs going on. Contests always bring out heavy activity but we can't have a contest all of the time. Six meter DX is sort of like a contest that is unscheduled; when the band opens you play contest for as long as it is open, or until you tire of working the same people again and again.

Some days later I discovered a 'game' I could play with myself to help me call CQ more often and work more people, however briefly (ie. contest report if nothing else) just to insure there was activity and a sound on the radio to attract others who may only do casual listening.

It goes like this. I try to see in how short a time I can work 4 continents. I do this daily and my current best is 2 hours and 18 minutes. I'm sure I can do it in under an hour some day. Just hang in there looking for the first JA of the day (Asia) against the last South American, filling in Oceania and North America almost at will (well, during March anyhow).

Driving to Auckland last week I thought about this and about the human habits associated with six meters. We tend to listen a lot, transmit some (more often when we think there may be a new country or area about) and talk about both on .885 often. I also got to thinking about the present awards available for six meter operation; DXCC, WAS, WAC, VUCC and the minor ones such as WAJD et al. And that many operators are weekend warriors with limited operating opportunities, who may (like K5CM) only actually transmit when they smell a new country (imagine having stacked 50 foot boom antennas over 170 feet in the air, a kw, and perhaps making 50 contacts a year; K5CM! "I've worked ZL...so I'm listening for something new".).

How about an ANNUAL CONTEST with a nice award system? Here are my rules:

- 1) NAME: 6 METER TRIPLE A (Award)
- 2) OBJECTIVE: Get more people transmitting when the band is open, and digging for DX even if they have previously worked that DX station / country.
- 3) CHALLENGE:
  - A) Seven Awards each year; 'International Class'.
  - B) One each for each of six continental areas, one for worldwide 'best'.
    - 1) Stations in a continental area compete against other stations in same continental area.
    - 2) Object is to work 4 continents in as short a time period as possible. Time is from 1st contact included in set to last in set.
      - A) Example: ZL0AAA works FO5DR (Oceania)/2021; W5GVE (NA)/2029;



ZL1AAA \ TRIPLE A AWARDS

MEMO:  
NIE/KHE  
KASB

April 15, 1991

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It goes like this. I try to see in how short a time I can work 4 continents. I do this daily and my current best is 2 hours and 18 minutes. I'm sure I can do it in under an hour some day. Just hang in there looking for the first JA of the day (Asia) against the last South American, filling in Oceania and North America almost at will (well, during March anyhow).

Driving to Auckland last week I thought about this and about the human habits associated with six meters. We tend to listen a lot, transmit some (more often when we think there may be a new country or area about) and talk about both on .885 often. I also got to thinking about the present awards available for six meter operation: DXCC, WAS, WAC, VUCC and the minor ones such as WABU et al. And that many operators are weekend warriors with limited operating opportunities, who may (like K5CM) only actually transmit when they smell a new country (imagine having attacked 50 foot boom antennas over 170 feet in the air, a kw, and perhaps making 50 contacts a year; K5CM! "I've worked ZL...so I'm listening for something new".).

How about an ANNUAL CONTEST with a nice award system? Here are my rules:

- 1) NAME: 5 METER TRIPLE A (Award)
- 2) OBJECTIVE: Get more people transmitting when the band is open, and digging for DX even if they have previously worked that DX station \ country.
- 3) CHALLENGE:
  - A) Seven Awards each year; 'International Class'.
  - B) One each for each of six continental areas, one for worldwide 'best'.
- 1) Stations in a continental area compete against other stations in same continental area.
- 2) Object is to work 4 continents in as short a time period as possible. Time is from 1st contact included in set to last in set.
- A) Example: ZL1AAA works F0SLK (Oceania) \2021; W5GVE (NA) \2022;



Triple A Awards/page two

PJ9JT (SA)/2234; and, JA5IX (Asia) 2239. Total ELAPSED time between 2021 and 2239 is 2 hours 18 minutes.

B) Contacts may be in same day, or require months from first to last; whatever is 'the best' for a station, time of year, etc.

C) Each station competes against others in same continent during UTC calendar year.

Thoughts. Even in down F2 cycle period, 4 continents is not out of the question for most continental areas. Think about it. Each new day is a new game; it COULD be better than the day before. So for fear of missing a closer sequence, you at least do a contest exchange to get the contact(s) into the log.

The contest coordinator accepts log extracts BUT reserves the right to confirm times and contacts with station(s) worked and claimed.

A small 'box' in KA3B Newsletter could list 'best claimed times' from previous reporting month; we might even make it a qualification for annual award that station report at least 3 times to KA3B during course of year as to his 'best' of the year to reporting date. That will provide a barometer against which competitors could gauge their own results and extent of challenges. And a nice standing feature in the Newsletter.

At the end of the year, KA3B (with or without a 'Committee' if we think that is adviseable) selects the probably obvious "Best Of The Year" for each continental area and proclaims in the February issue the prior year winner(s).

The Seventh Award. The tough one; all six continents, best time for same, for previous calendar year. Yes, some years no award at all.

4) ACTUAL AWARDS: Gay (ZL1GG) and I will establish a self-perpetuating trust fund in the British West Indies through an administrator to pay the cost of the awards. In perpetuity.

1) For each continent, a plaque large enough to hold say 25 annual listings/engravings. Each year the new winner's name et al (example follows) is added.

A) The actual winner for that year receives a smaller plaque to retain.

2) For the Six Continent Award, a sizeable cup with room for 25 years and each year the award is made, a new line entrant.

A) Actual winner receives a smaller replica cup.

3) Engravings (example):

50 MHZ TRIPLE A AWARD/ASIA

1991 / JA1VOK MARCH 06 / 1 HOUR 6 MINUTES

I suggest the permanent (larger) awards be retained at KA3B for now; perhaps taken to ARRL Museum or something similar in future for long term retention and viewing.

4) The trust fund will be sufficient to pay for the initial permanent Plaques/Cup, and the smaller plaques/cups for the foreseeable future.

5) In The Newsletter: I recommend the 'administrator' of the Awards be KA3B, for as long as you / Harry are willing to do it, are doing the 50 MHZ newsletter etc. I'd like the Awards to be known/referred to as the 'TRIPLE A 6 METER AWARDS' for purely selfish reasons. But I see







TRIPLE A AWARDS / Page three

the monthly 'Ranking Report Listing', the annual presentation of the awards (perhaps done at Dayton or one of the VHF Hamventions?) and after the first year the 'ALL TIME BEST' listing in the Newsletter as a positive promotional tool for the Newsletter.

NOW, having satisfied (perhaps) the need to create a tool for more frequent contacts on six when the band is open, I would also suggest we select one for two geographic areas to excite interest in the Sporadic E seasons. The format is the same but with the following rules:

6) TRIPLE A 25 (48) AWARD

A) Goal: Increased six meter activity, ie. transmitting

B) Operator Objective:

- 1) Worldwide: Shortest time required to work 25 50 MHz (no crossband) countries; annual (UTC) basis.
- 2) North America: Shortest time required to work (continental) 48 states; annual (UTC) basis.

In these two events, a fellow who works a station in a qualifying country/state in say January may get lucky in June and discover he can do the award in say 17 days if he reworks the country/state originally worked in January. So he sets out to do that one again. Just an example, but the point is obvious; interest does not wane when 25 or 48 are worked; because you might shave a day or week or month off by reworking one of the early ones, thereby shortening your time span and improving your chances to win for the year.

C) Same box listing in newsletter except the listings probably won't start coming in until mid year. Make it mandatory contestants be listed (ie. report) at least twice; once of course at end of year and once before (deadline for) November issue. We do the 3 times reporting/two times reporting to keep people from squirreling away sleeper applications to end of year. In this case, they could be required to report within 10 days of reaching 25 or 48 as case may be, to qualify for annual award. That might be the best way to do it rather than a mandatory twice per year. Anyone can of course 'do better' than their original (4) (6) (25) (48) later on and report an 'improved' entry.

- 1) The rules should I think require each report (which doubles as an award application) be complete; ie. date, time, station, continent/country/state (as required) worked in date/time sequence.

A) This gives Harry much new 'fodder' for Newsletter; a backwards way of getting 'DX reports' in a painless format.

So there you have it; more people working Sporadic E, paying attention to Es, maybe even finding some triple and quadruple hop QSOs in there because they are now looking when previously they just shrugged off the band being open "because there is nothing new to work". Every day is new, every year is new again.

Gay and I hereby commit to fund the awards if as, or close to, the way outlined here. No need to get back to us (more follows); just announce it and start taking entrance materials/reports and publishing same. Yes, 1991 would be short and not representative if you started it say 1 June. Or, make it retroactive this year only and go back to 1 January at 0000 UTC.



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SUGGESTED ANNOUNCEMENT/ For publications, 50 MHz groups, individuals.  
NOTE: Some Blanks to fill in, perhaps some wording to change depending upon when you decide(d) to start 1991 period for award(s).

#### NEW: 50 MHz DX ACTIVITY AWARD

A new series of annual awards, created to encourage increased 'DX-exchanges' on the 50 MHz band, has been announced by Harry Schools, KA3B, publisher of the "50 MHz DX Newsletter".

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The awards are designed to encourage 6 meter operators to be more active and make more frequent transmissions when DX conditions seem likely. Active on 6 meters since 1954 (50 MHz WAS #22 as K6EDX), Cooper believes many 6 meter DX contact opportunities are missed because stations at both ends of a DX circuit are listening rather than transmitting.

The object for all nine (9) annual awards is to contact a specified group of geographic districts in the shortest possible period of time. Participants will be encouraged to look upon each new day/week/month/year as an opportunity to better than own previous-best elapsed-time contact record. The awards are as follows:

##### 1) TRIPLE-A 6 METER/4 CONTINENT AWARD

- A) Presented to the station working four continents on six meters in the shortest elapsed time, each calendar year. Example:  
ZLOAAA works FO5DR at 1957, PJ9EE at 2043, W6UXN at 2110 and JA1OVK at 2203. Total elapsed time (1957-2203) is 2 hours, 6 minutes.
- B) Participants can work and rework same stations in same day, different days, etc. as frequently as needed to create 'best elapsed times'. Contacts need only include exchanged signal reports and confirmations.
- C) Six separate awards each year, to best-elapsed-time for each radio-continental region (i.e., NA, SA, Asia, Europe, Oceania, Africa).

##### 2) TRIPLE-A 6 METER/6 CONTINENT AWARD

- A) Presented to the station working all six continental areas on six meters in the shortest elapsed time, each calendar year. Same detail as with 4 continent awards.

##### 3) TRIPLE-A 6 METER 25 COUNTRY AWARD

- A) Presented to the station who works 25 DXCC countries on six meters in the shortest elapsed time, each calendar year. Same detail as with 4 continent awards.

##### 4) TRIPLE-A 6 METER 48 STATE AWARD

- A) Presented to the station who works the 48 contiguous states of the U.S.A. in the shortest elapsed time, each calendar year. Same detail as with 4 continent awards.







TRIPLE A 50 MHz AWARDS/Page Two/Announcement

QSL confirmations are NOT required for annual award applicants. However, award manager Harry Schools (KA3B) reserves the right to require proof of QSOs by contacting stations claimed by applicant and to submit contested applications to a Panel of Advisors appointed by award creators ZL0AAA and ZL1GG. Contested applications unresolved as of 1 February each year will be automatically eliminated for annual award.

Applicants MUST submit details of contacts within 10 days of last award-qualifying contact to 50 MHz DX Newsletter (% Harry Schools/KA3B, 1606 S. Newkirk Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19145, USA) for combined application/report to be considered for the current year's awards. There is no limit to the number of individual entries (ie. sets of contacts) that can be reported/submitted within a calendar year. Individual contacts can appear in two or more submissions since the goal of each award is 'total elapsed time' between first and last contact(s) required for an individual award. Applications need only include the following data:

- 1) Name, callsign and address of applicant
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March 11, 1991: FO5DR 1957/PJ9EE 2043/W6UXN 2110/JA1OVK 2203
- 3) Where UTC-time dates are different for contacts, please so note.
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Winners will receive handsome custom engraved plaques (TRIPLE-A 4 Continent, 25 Countries and 48 States awards) or a custom engraved cup (TRIPLE-A 6 Continent Award), and, an individual certificate authorizing winners to include 'TRIPLE-A (award name) WINNER/(year)' on their QSL cards and station literature.

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Additional information, if required from KA3B.



Bob:

I AM SORRY THAT I  
CANNOT CONTINUE WITH THE  
BULLETIN AND THE IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE "TRIPLE - A AWARDS"

my apologies,

Amy  
KABQ